(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up an authority for managing the upkeep and funds etc. of the train; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) and not the small train has been declared as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.

(b) The World Heritage Site status implies recognition of significant values of the DHR to be conserved for posterity. There are also possibilities to mobilize national and international, technical and financial assistance for the process of conservation and sustainable development of the World Heritage area.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Railway Board at present has decided that the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) should undertake commercial activities of the DHR while the ownership and operation will remain with the Indian Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

Stampede at Lucknow railway station

423. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the enquiry instituted into causes for stampede at the Lucknow railway station in September, 2002 has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the enquiry has also taken into account the harassment and ill-treatment meted out to passengers by unruly and ticket-less crowd in trains passing through Lucknow on that day;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the policy of Government to prevent ticket-less mob entering into trains unchecked, to take part in political rallies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The enquiry report is under examination. Thereafter, the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scrapping of Railway projects

424. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been drawn up to scrap a large number of Railway projects which were approved over ten years ago but have not yet been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the investments made in these specific projects;

(c) whether it is fact that many of these projects were formulated without detailed project reports, pre-project activities or a proper tie-up of financial resources; and

(d) if so, the details of such projects and the compulsions/reasons for undertaking them without following the established sound project management practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Disaster Management infrastructure in Railways

425. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been undertaken to assess the disaster management infrastructure and its effectiveness on the Indian Railways, especially in the wake of the recent Rajdhani Express accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional relief and emergency facilities proposed to be created in the disaster management units in the different zones; and